CLAIMS

Sub 1

1. An apparatus comprising:

- at least one processor;
- a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
- class configuration data comprising a plurality of entries residing in the memory, each class configuration entry including a key-value pair, wherein the key includes information relating to a selected processing context and the value includes configuration data for a class
- 7 in the selected processing context; and
- an object oriented class replacement mechanism residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor that generates an instance of a selected class by using a key that
- includes context information to access the appropriate entry in the class configuration data.
 - 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the key comprises context information appended to
 - 2 a class identifier.
 - 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the class identifier comprises a class token that
 - 2 comprises a text string.
 - 4. The apparatus of claim 1 further/comprising a factory object that generates an instance
- 2 of the selected class by accessing the appropriate entry in the class configuration data
- 3 using the key.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a key generator mechanism that generates
- 2 the key from a class identifier and from the context information.

- 1 6. A method for creating an instance of an object oriented class, the method comprising the steps of:
- (1) retrieving configuration data corresponding to the class in a selected
 processing context using a corresponding key that includes information relating to the
 selected processing context; and
- 6 (2) instantiating the instance of the class using the retrieved configuration data.
- 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of storing the configuration data with the corresponding key.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of storing the configuration data with the 2 corresponding key comprises the step of generating a key from a class identifier and from 3 the context information.
- 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the key comprises context information appended to a class identifier.
- 1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the class identifier comprises a class token that comprises a text string.
- 1 11. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of generating the key from a class identifier and from the context information.

1	12. A method for replacing an existing class with a replacement class in a distributed
2	object environment, the method comprising the steps of:
3	(1) storing configuration data for the existing class using a corresponding key that
4	includes information relating to a selected processing context;
5	(2) replacing the configuration data for the existing class with configuration data
6	for the replacement class while maintaining the same corresponding key;
7	(3) initiating the creation of an instance of the replacement class;
8	(4) generating a key that includes information relating to the current processing
9	context;
10	(5) retrieving the configuration data for the replacement class using the generated
l 1	key; and
12	(6) creating an instance of the replacement class according to the retrieved
13	configuration data for the replacement class.
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- 1 13. A program product comprising:
- an object oriented ¢lass replacement mechanism that generates an instance of a
- 3 selected class by using a key that includes information relating to a selected processing
- 4 context to access an appropriate entry in class configuration data stored external to the
- 5 class; and
- signal bearing media bearing the object oriented class replacement mechanism.
- 1 14. The program product of claim 13 wherein said signal bearing media comprises
- 2 recordable media.
- 1 15. The program product of claim 13 wherein said signal bearing media comprises
- 2 transmission media.
- 1 16. The program product of claim 13 wherein the key comprises context information
- 2 appended to a class identifier.
- 1 17. The program product of claim 16 wherein the class identifier comprises a class token
- 2 that comprises a text string.
- 1 18. The program product of claim 13 further comprising a factory object that generates
- 2 an instance of the selected class by accessing the appropriate entry in the class
- 3 configuration data using the key.
- 1 19. The program product of claim 13 further comprising a key generator mechanism that
- 2 generates the key from a class identifier and from the context information.
